

we know any ultimate chemical fact. However wonderful, therefore, the results of these slight differences of composition may, at the first view, appear; a little reflection will convince us, that in reality, they are not more wonderful than any other chemical phenomenon; and that they only form a particular variety of such phenomena. The same remarks are applicable, in part at least, to the striking differences exhibited by Sugar and Starch; the essential composition of which two substances, as we have before observed, is nearly the same; but the starch contains incidental bodies, from which the sugar is free. On the operation of these incidental bodies we shall offer a few conjectural remarks.

At the commencement of this chapter, we stated, that the incidental substances existing in organized bodies, have hitherto been considered as foreign; but that we could not subscribe to that opinion. We may now add, that the differences observed among bodies having the same essential composition, and which are at first view so mysterious; appear to us to be chiefly owing to their incidental ingredients. We cannot precisely understand the mode of operation of quantities so minute; but we can imagine them to be interposed among the constituent molecules: further, the molecules of these incidental matters, are probably in a state of strong self-repulsion. Such being the case, it is not unreasonable to